

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01064 261631Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----126740 261644Z /42

O R 261540Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7350
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1064

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: ADDITIONAL APPROACH TO SOUTH AFRICANS

REF: A) STATE 131790, B) CAPE TOWN 1047, C) USUN 2130

1. AS CAPE TOWN 1047 INDICATES, THE ATMOSPHERE HERE IS
AT THE MOMENT NOT PARTICULARLY FAVORABLE FOR THE APPROACH
PROPOSED REFTEL (-). MOREOVER, WE THINK IT UNDESIRABLE
TO RAISE THE WALVIS BAY QUESTION RIGHT NOW AND HAVE SOME
CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROPOSED APPROACH ON AN INFORMAL
CEASEFIRE. REGARDING CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES,
HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE NOW TO HAVE INFORMAL
DISCUSSIONS BY INDIVIDUAL REPS OF CAPE
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 01064 261631Z

TOWN FIVE WITH FOURIE OR VAN HEERDEN.

2. WALVIS BAY: WITH RESPECT TO WALVIS BAY, THE SOUTH
AFRICANS ARE ALMOST CERTAINLY ACCURATELY INFORMED ON WHAT IS
BEING CONTEMPLATED FOR SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION. IN OUR VIEW,
WE SHOULD NOT RAISE THE ISSUE AT THIS TIME; AS VORSTER TOOK
PAINS TO REMIND US JUST TWO DAYS AGO (REFTEL B),

IT IS TOO SENSITIVE. CONFRONTING THE SOUTH AFRICANS
WITH IT NOW COULD VERY WELL HAVE UNWELCOME CONSEQUENCES
FURTHER COMPLICATING OUR EFFORTS.

3. DE FACTO CEASEFIRE: THE SOUTH AFRICANS WOULD LIKELY
AGREE TO UNDERTAKE NO FURTHER OPERATIONS AGAINST SWAPO
IN ANGOLA IN THE ABSENCE OF SWAPO PROVOCATION. WE WOULD
BE SURPRISED, HOWEVER, IF SWAPO WERE WILLING TO MAKE A
SIMILAR COMMITMENT. THUS, IF WE MADE THIS APPROACH TO
THE SAG, IT WOULD VERY LIKELY CLAIM AN IMPLIED WESTERN
SANCTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN RETALIATION AGAINST FURTHER
TERRORIST ACTIVITY.

5. OTHER MEASURES: WITH RESPECT TO CONFIDENCE-BUILDING
MEASURES, WE THINK IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO LET THE SOUTH
AFRICANS KNOW MORE SPECIFICALLY THAN WE HAVE TO DATE
(REFTEL B) OF THE KIND OF STEPS WE HAVE IN MIND.
TO DO SO WILL HELP MAKE CLEARER JUST WHAT WE WOULD
CONSIDER POSITIVE AND POSSIBLY HEAD OFF STEPS WHICH
THE SOUTH AFRICANS MIGHT ASSERT ARE TO THEIR MIND
POSITIVE BUT WHICH IN FACT WOULD CREATE NEW PROBLEMS
FOR US. MOREOVER, IT WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO THE
SPECIFIC REQUEST MADE BY FOURIE TO MCHENRY YESTERDAY
(MAY 25) FOR A LIST OF POSITIVE MOVES WE BELIEVE SOUTH
AFRICA COULD TAKE. FOURIE CONSIDERED THE FIVE'S RESPONSE
TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON MAY 24 ONLY marginally helpful
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PAGE 03 CAPE T 01064 261631Z

AT BEST. WITH INDIVIDUAL REPS OF THE FIVE
MAKING SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS INFORMALLY TO FOURIE OR
VAN HEERDEN, WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE EASIER FOR THE SAG
TO GIVE THEM SERIOUS THOUGHT. FOURIE ASSURED MCHENRY
OUR SUGGESTIONS WERE DESIRED AND WOULD BE GIVEN URGENT
CONSIDERATION. WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY AUTHORIZATION
TO PROCEED ON THIS BASIS.

6. RE PARA 2 REFTTEL (C), VORSTER (AT A QUITE INAPPROPRIATE
TIME AND PLACE, TO OUR MIND) DID INDEED CONPLAIN TO THE
CAPE TOWN FIVE ABOUT REMARKS MADE BY MCHENRY TO THE MEDIA.
HE DID SO ON THE BASIS OF A TRANSCRIPT PROVIDED BY
UNFRIENDLY SABC JOURNALIST, CLIFF SAUNDERS. THE
SAUNDERS' TRANSCRIPT WAS HIGHLY MISLEADING IN THAT IT
INCLUDED ONLY SAUNDERS' QUESTIONS WHICH HAD IN FACT BEEN
SCATTERED THROUGHOUT A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH SEVERAL
NEWSMEN. THE TRANSCRIPT THEREFORE WAS OUT OF CONTEXT
AND OMITTED MOST OF WHAT MCHENRY HAD TO SAY. MCHENRY
SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT IN HIS MEETING WITH FOURIE
YESTERDAY, MAY 25.
NELSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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